

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 ISO-00 SCCT-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 ORM-02 /077 W

----- 014951

R 141426Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2762

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL ASMARA

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TUNIS 3459

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PFOR AINR EG TS

SUBJECT: ERITREAN LIBERATION FRONT (ELF) INSTALLS
REPRESENTATIVE IN TUNIS

REF: TUNIS 3367

1. FOLLOWING VISIT OF ELF DELEGATION HEADED BY OSMAN SALAH SEBBI (SEE REFTTEL), ERITREAN REPRESENTATIVE HAS ARRIVED IN TUNIS TO ESTABLISH OFFICE HERE AUTHORIZED BY GOT IN RESPONSE TO SEBBI'S REQUEST. REPRESENTATIVE IS MOHAMED ALI IDRIS. HE HAS NOT BEEN PUBLICLY ACTIVE THUS FAR, DEVOTING HIMSELF FOR MOMENTLT TO ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS OF SETTING UP OFFICE. IN AN AS YET UNPUBLISHED INTERVIEW WITH WESTERN PRESS REPRESENTATIVE IDRIS DISCUSSED PROSPECTS FOR ELF VICTORY (HE NATURALLY THOUGHT THEY WERE GOOD) AND ADMITTED THAT NEARLY ALL OF ELF FINANCING COMES FROM LARG.

2. BIO NOTES: BEFORE HIS APPOINTMENT TO TUNIS, IDRIS WAS "GOVERNOR" OF ZONE 2 (AMONG 13 ADMINISTRATIVE ZONES IN ERITREA LLEGEDLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE ELF).H

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AGED ABOUT 35, HE STUDIED LAW AT BELGRADE UNIVERSITY

AND GRADUATED IN 1972. HE SPEAKS ENGLISH AND ARABIC,
BUT NO FRENCH WHICH WILL BE A HANDICAP FOR HIM IN TUNIS.
HE HAS THREE VERTICAL SCARS ON EACH CHEEK. HE IS
REPORTED TO BE PERSONABLE AND GARRULOUS. EMBASSTLHAS
HAD NO CONTACT WITHHIM.
KING

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Message Attributes

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